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Misery in April

APRIL has been a bad month for the United States . . . one of those times when nothing seems to go right.

The month got off on the wrong foot a couple of weeks ago when the Russians sent a man around the world in a space ship. This was the biggest news since the atom bomb. Both the U.S. and Russia had been racing to see who would be first to get ~~man~~ into outer space. Although U. S. scientists had conceded the race months ago, it still was a big letdown when a Soviet Cosmonaut crossed the finish line first.

Just as the sting from the space loss was beginning to ease, rebels invaded Cuba. When the invasion was launched, it was big news in all the papers . . . splashed across the front pages in ~~big~~ type, proclaiming the beginning of the end for Pink Dictator Castro. But as time went on, the picture began to darken. Only the rumors provided any sign of hope.

Castro is dead, some whispered; he is insane, said others. One report said the invaders had succeeded in their invasion goal, which was to join up with rebels in the mountains and produce a huge guerrilla force that would smash the Cuban strongman. But as the smoke of battle cleared away, the picture was black for the United States. The rebels had been either shot or captured, and the survivors were paraded before television cameras as proof. Castro

was not dead, and he was not any more insane than usual. He had emerged from the fracas stronger than ever.

The United States officially had denied any connection with the invasion at the time it was launched. But when the battle was lost, the Cuban rebels became bitter and the story came out that our Central Intelligence Agency had engineered the whole thing. The administration, after first denying any part in the invasion, then had to admit to playing a heavy role in the ill-fated rebellion.

This bit of embarrassment carried the U. S. through the weekend with enough discomfort left over to make Monday miserable.

Then on Tuesday our country set up for the one last test launching of the space ship that is to carry an astronaut around the world next week. This would have been one of the world's attention from Russia's triumph and Castro's victory.

But the launching flopped. Thirty seconds after it left the ground, the rocket exploded. This left everyone wondering what will happen when the launching is attempted next week with a man aboard — instead of a dummy as was in the space ship Tuesday.

A soothsayer warned Caesar to beware the Ides of March. It is unfortunate some supernatural prophet could not have warned Kennedy to beware the Ides of April.—R. C.